

# Managing Aquatic Invasive Plants to Protect Montana's Water

## Resources- Sanders County

EXHIBIT

DATE

Jan 21, 2013

HB

**Applicant:** Sanders County- advised by the 13 member Aquatic Invasive Plant Task Force  
**Project Type:** Crucial State Need **Location:** Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs

**Goal:** To effectively control Eurasian watermilfoil in Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge reservoirs on the Lower Clark Fork River and reduce the risk of spread of this plant and other invasive aquatic species to non-infested water bodies in Montana and the surrounding region.

### **Importance of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Control Project**

- EWM has known impacts to aquatic environments, agricultural irrigation, and hydro-power generation
- High risk of spread to other non-infested water bodies in Montana
- Low acreage infested of **3.6% (~400 of 11,000 total surface acres between the two reservoirs)** allows for containment/control and potential to reduce infestation to a maintenance level (integrated control methods)
- **2,919 acres** are at risk for invasion of EWM between the two reservoirs

**Objective 1:** Implement an aggressive integrated control program on reservoirs that includes prevention, herbicides, physical controls, and public education/outreach.



Deep water herbicide injection

### **Accomplishments:**

- Herbicide treatments on **246 acres** through research/ demonstration sites and operational application (2009-2012): results- **80 to 95% control**
- **20,000-30,000 square feet** of bottom barriers installed annually in high-use areas (2008-2012)
- Education/outreach program conducted each season- survey results indicate increased awareness about aquatic invasive species (2007-2012) – **264 people surveyed in 2012**
- Prevention: boat cleaning and inspection stations; boater education and outreach

**Objective 2:** Implement a **monitoring program** that provides data to **evaluate results** of herbicide treatments and other management methods for future phases.

**Accomplishment:** Pre- and post-treatment aquatic plant sampling completed on Noxon Reservoir: Plant data collected six weeks post-treatment indicated good to excellent (**80 to 95%**) control of EWM on the majority of treatment sites and recovery of native aquatic plant community.

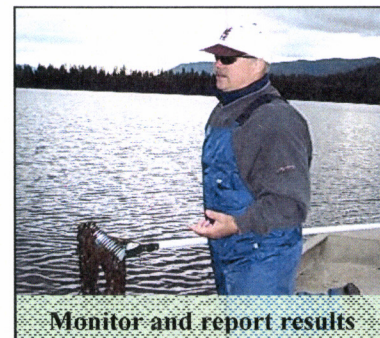
**Objective 3:** Report results to grantors, community stakeholder groups and the general public.



Prevent movement



Control Infested Sites



Monitor and report results



# 2012 Pre- Herbicide Treatment Map

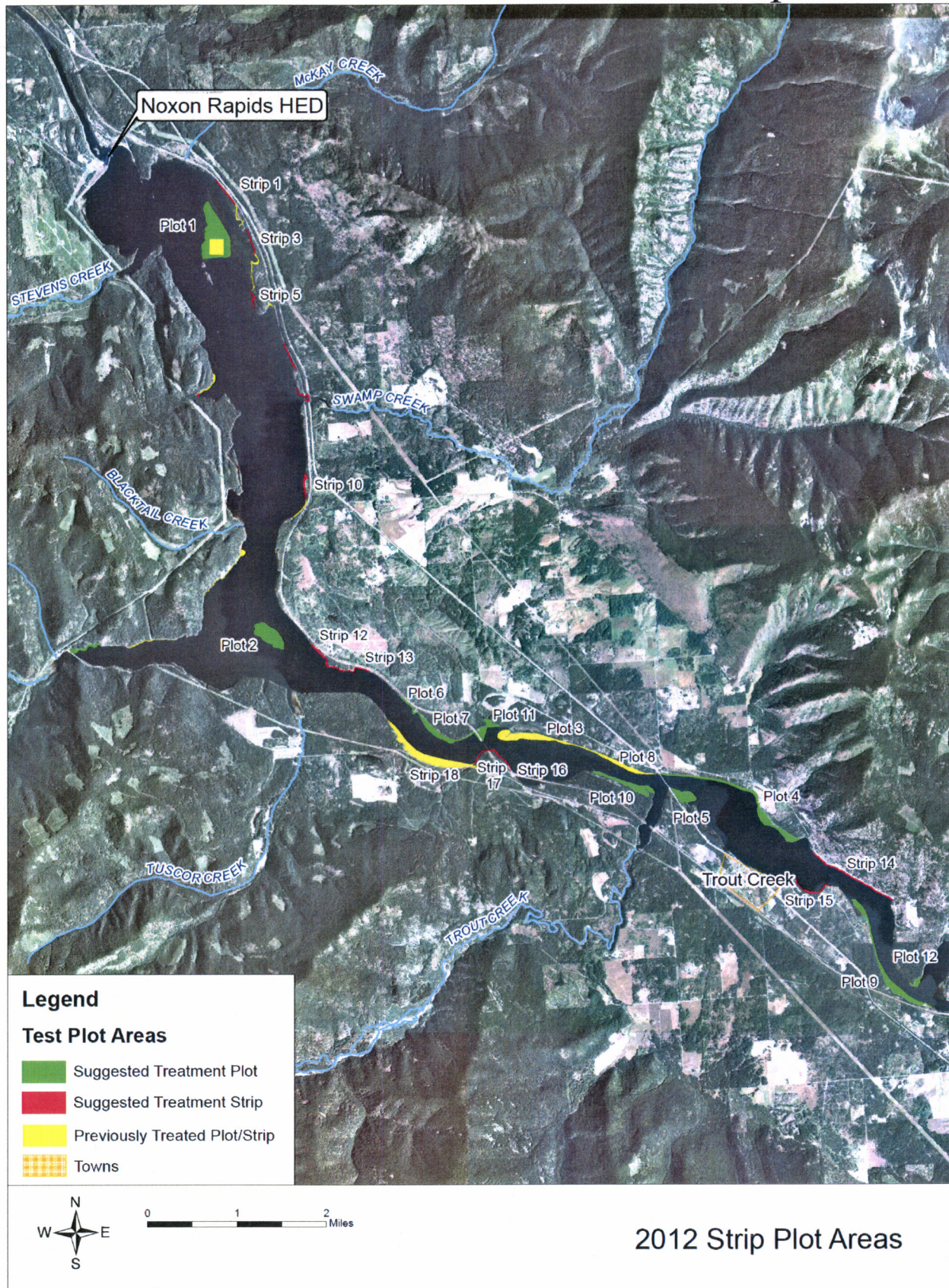
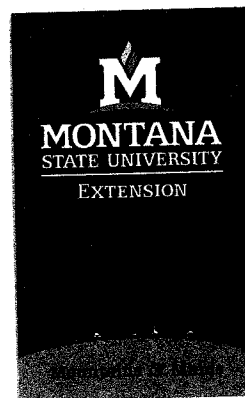




EXHIBIT 19  
DATE Jan. 27, 2013  
HB 7



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